



# Press Release

From London Tree Officers Association (LTOA)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 05.10.2011:**

## **London's tree experts explore greater role for Volunteer Tree Wardens**

London's tree officers are getting together on 6 October 2011 to look at how volunteer Tree Wardens could play a greater role in the capital.

The London Tree Officers Association is holding a seminar in Islington, showcasing the work of community volunteers in the management and care of the nation's trees and woodlands to demonstrate how Tree Wardens could play an even greater role in the capital .

The event is part of the Londoners Love Trees initiative, funded by Mayor Boris Johnson's Team London volunteering programme. The Mayor wants to get 4,000 Londoners involved in growing, planting, surveying and caring for urban trees through this initiative.

The aim of the seminar is to encourage other London Boroughs to set up their own Tree Warden networks to assist Local Authority Officers.

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There will be presentations from the Tree Warden networks of South Norfolk, South Walsall and the London Borough of Merton where volunteer Tree Wardens act as both guardians and champions of their communities' trees.

The LTOA is working with The Tree Council to deliver the Londoners Love Trees Project to develop at least 5 new borough-based volunteer Tree Warden networks. The Tree Council, which co-ordinates the national Tree Warden Scheme, aims to recruit around 300 new London volunteers over the next 12 months and offer additional support to existing Tree Warden networks.

Londoners Love Trees is being delivered through The Tree Council and Trees for Cites, working with the London Tree Officers Association and Barcham Trees. Londoners Love Trees forms part of RE:LEAF, the Mayor's campaign to increase London's tree cover.

Dave Lofthouse, Chair of the LTOA, said " We know that Londoners really do love their trees and we want to harness some of that enthusiasm and care to the benefit of London's Urban Forest."

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For more information please contact Becky Hesch, Executive Officer on 07771 976238 or email [executive.officer@ltoa.org.uk](mailto:executive.officer@ltoa.org.uk) or visit [www.ltoa.org.uk](http://www.ltoa.org.uk).

## ---NOTES FOR EDITORS---

### The London Tree Officers Association

The LTOA provides an information network for the exchange of views, experiences and ideas on trees and the management of London's Urban Forest. The Association dates back to 1982 and aims to enhance the management of the capital's trees and woodlands. It involves local authority Tree Officers in all 33 London Boroughs, an associate membership of a wide range of tree professionals and those who manage and care for trees. The LTOA is funded by London Boroughs and associate member subscriptions. For more information, documents, advice and guidelines on tree care take a look at the LTOA website at [www.ltoa.org.uk](http://www.ltoa.org.uk).

### Tree Wardens

The Tree Council launched the national Tree Warden Scheme in 1990 to harness the power of local volunteers for the good of their communities' trees. It has co-ordinated it nationally ever since, working with local councils, voluntary organisations, and local partnerships to set up and

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develop the Tree Warden networks in towns, cities and the countryside across the UK that make up the national scheme.

## Team London

Team London is the Mayor's ambitious programme to mobilise 10,000 volunteers across the capital to help improve the quality of life in the city. Team London seeks to bridge the gap between the capital's greatest needs and the work of volunteers, particularly leaders of uniformed youth groups, mentors, sports coaches, literacy and digital champions, to help green London through tree planting and to build stronger neighbourhoods. It also aims to support individuals and public, private and voluntary organisations so that they can work more effectively together.

For more information on Team London, please visit [www.london.gov.uk/teamlondon](http://www.london.gov.uk/teamlondon),

## Londoners Love Trees Partners

The Tree Council is the UK's lead charity for trees, promoting their importance in a changing environment. It works with around 200 member organisations, such as Trees for Cites, to make trees matter to everyone – whether in town, city or countryside. Its annual Community Action Programme includes Walk in the Woods month, Seed Gathering Season and National Tree Week. It offers grants for schools and communities to plant trees, and works for change through its Tree Care, Green Monuments and Hedge Tree Campaigns. [www.treecouncil.org.uk](http://www.treecouncil.org.uk)

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Trees for Cities is an independent charity which inspires people to plant and love trees worldwide. Set up as Trees for London in 1993, Trees for Cities' aim is to create social cohesion and beautify our cities through community – led tree planting, design, education and training initiatives in urban areas that need it most. Trees for Cities manages projects across the UK and Ireland as well as internationally in Addis Ababa, Nairobi, Ica, La Paz and Rwanda. [www.treesforcities.org](http://www.treesforcities.org)

The London Tree Officers Association (see above)

Barcham Trees Plc has been growing trees for over 25 years and is based just outside Ely, Cambridgeshire. Its tree nursery covers 300 acres and its specialises in containerised trees.

## **RE:LEAF**

RE:LEAF is a partnership campaign led by the Mayor of London to protect the capital's trees and encourage individual Londoners, businesses and organisations to plant more trees in the capital. The Mayor also wants to protect London's woodlands and associated wildlife, and make London a greener, more attractive city. [www.london.gov.uk/releaf-london](http://www.london.gov.uk/releaf-london)

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